

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03370 191400Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00
OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 HA-05
MCT-01 ACDA-12 COME-00 SSM-03 OPR-02 SY-05 /103 W
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O R 191314Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8340
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
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CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3370

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: JUNE 19, 1978, 1300 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 3328 (DTG 161120Z JUN 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH WARNED ALL MEMBERS OF THE
PHALANGE PARTY TO LEAVE NORTH LEBANON. THE PHALANGE PARTY RE-
JECTED ATTEMPTS TO EXCLUDE IT FROM ANY PART OF THE COUNTRY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03370 191400Z

PIERRE GEMAYEL, WHILE AGAIN DEPLORING A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH
MADE PEOPLE TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS, CALLED THE PEOPLE
KILLED AT IHDIN "MARTYRS" AND "COMRADES". RIGHTIST MILITIA
BLOCKED ATTEMPTS OF UNIFIL TO DEPLOY INTO MANY OF THE AREAS IN
SOUTH LEBANON FROM WHICH THE ISRAELIS HAD WITHDRAWN. END SUMMARY.

2. FRANJIYAH SERVES NOTICE.

ON JUNE 17 FORMER PRESIDENT SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH, ACCORDING TO IKE, TOLD PEOPLE WHO CAME TO PAY CONDOLENCE CALLS AT IHDIN THAT:

A. "THE LEADERS OF ZGHARTA HAVE DECIDED TO ASK YOU - ESPECIALLY THE PRIESTS AMONG YOU - TO RELAY A MESSAGE TO YOUR PARISHIONERS IN YOUR SERMONS TOMORROW. ASK THOSE AMONG THEM WHO HAVE BEEN TRICKED AND DELUDED INTO JOINING THAT (PHALANGE) PARTY TO DO ONE OF TWO THINGS:

B. "THEY MUST CONSULT THEIR CONSCIENCE. IF THEY FIND THAT PARTY TO BE A GOOD THING FOR LEBANON, BY ALL MEANS REMAIN MEMBERS OF IT, ON CONDITION THAT THEY LEAVE THIS AREA.

C. "IF THEY DECIDE THAT THAT PARTY IS AN EVIL ONE, THEY MUST SURRENDER THE WEAPONS WHICH THE PARTY GAVE THEM AND SIGN A STATEMENT DECLARING THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PARTY. IF THEY DO THAT, I PERSONALLY GUARANTEE THAT NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO THEM.

D. "BUT IF ONE EVIL PERSON REMAINS IN THIS AREA, HE WILL BE DEALT WITH HARSHLY."

3. PHALANGE POLITBURO STATEMENT.

THE PHALANGE POLITBURO ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT ON JUNE 17, SAYING THAT:

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03370 191400Z

--THE PHALANGE PARTY HAD REJECTED AND CONTINUES TO REJECT A PROPOSAL THAT IT STAY OUT OF CERTAIN AREAS OF LEBANON. THIS REJECTION HAD CAUSED OTHERS TO START A "WAR" AGAINST THE PHALANGE.

--SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH'S SUBSEQUENT RECONCILIATION WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER RASHID KARAMI WAS MEANT TO TIP THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE NORTH AGAINST THE PHALANGE.

--THE ATTACK IN IHDIN LAST TUESDAY CAME AS THE RESULT OF THE FAILURE TO DO ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT GIVE THE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF ASSASSINATED PHALANGE MEMBERS KARIM SADDI AND JUDE BAYIH HOPE THAT JUSTICE WOULD BE DONE.

--"WHAT HAPPENED (IN IHDIN) WAS ONLY NATURAL; IT WAS NATURAL THAT YOU SHOULD REBEL AS ANY WRONGED AND PANIC STRICKEN PERSON WOULD REBEL."

4. STATEMENT BY PIERRE GEMAYEL.

PHALANGE PARTY LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL ON JUNE 18 STUCK TO HIS PREVIOUS LINE, SAYING THAT IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT THE PRESENT

STATE OF AFFAIRS MADE IT NECESSARY FOR A CITIZEN TO "CONFRONT TYRANNY WITH HIS OWN MEANS AND DEFEND HIS RIGHTS HIMSELF AND IN A VINDICTIVE SPIRIT." HE NEVERTHELESS ADDED WITH RESPECT TO THE PEOPLE KILLED AT IHDIN: "THESE MARTYRS ARE OUR BROTHERS, OUR SONS AND OUR COMRADES."

5. RIGHTISTS BLOCK UNIFIL IN SOUTH.

ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT-LE JOUR AND OTHER BEIRUT NEWSPAPERS ON JUNE 19, RIGHTIST MILITIA REPRESENTING THE PHALANGE, NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY, GUARDIANS OF THE CEDARS, "HEROES OF THE ARQUB" AND "SHI'A YOUTH" ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON JUNE 18 SAYING THAT THEY WOULD FIGHT TO DEFEND "EVERY INCH OF TERRAIN, EVERY VILLAGE AND VALLEY IN SOUTH LEBANON" AND THAT THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES WERE "IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 03370 191400Z

SERVICE OF THE PLO." L'ORIENT LE-JOUR SAID THESE MILITIAS HAD PREVENTED UNIFIL FROM TAKING UP POSITIONS IN MANY OF THE AREAS EVACUATED BY THE ISRAELIS ON JUNE 13. THEY HAD ALSO FORCED UNIFIL TO ABANDON ONE POST THAT IT HAD ESTABLISHED NEAR BINT JBAIL AND HAD BLOCKED THE ROAD LEADING TO NAQURAH, THE LOCATION OF UNIFIL'S HEADQUARTERS, THE PAPER SAID.
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